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-	Lloyd Burt	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

I hope this has been a better month for you in DX than it has been for me. I've been off traveling on business for part of the month. Then, of course, before leaving and when I returned there was the long list of chores to be done. Now that the yard looks like it will survive, I can turn my attention to the fun stuff.

J5X, Guinea-Bissau is on the air as we prepare the Pileup, as is the 3B6 St. Brandon expedition (maybe I'll get them this time). Come the end of June, there will be Field Day activities to enjoy.

If you have not visited our website recently, you should know that Jerry Moore has turned over the webmaster's duties to Lloyd Burt. Lloyd has gotten the Pileup archives functioning and has found the lost link to the photo gallery. Along with some other needed work, he has gotten the

website up and running in a great way. Suggestions for future improvements are always welcome, so go take a look and give us your thoughts.

Speaking of the web, Don Daso put together a list of websites in the Pileup a few years ago and it may be time to check them out and add any new ones that have come along since then. Two that I've read regularly are www.e-Ham.net and www.Contesting.com.

Some of the CDXA gang are planning to head up to Dayton Hamvention this month. Should be a great event and we'll look forward to hearing the latest when they return. If you'd care to share your Hamvention experiences with the membership at large, an article for The Pileup would be a great way to let us all know what Dayton is like.

73, Bill Turner, W4WNT

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

WAZ at Last!

This note from Roy Lincoln of Elm City, east of Raleigh, arrived in early May:

“Been a ham 40 years this October. Had 39 zones confirmed 20 years ago. Finally worked Zone 23 about then, but just couldn't seem to get a QSL. Last year I worked a couple of them in the All Asian event. Worked some more this year. FINALLY, yesterday, a QSL arrived for JT1 on CW, and suddenly I'm qualified to apply for WAZ, endorsed all CW. Sure didn't come easy, but I'm proud to say I've finally arrived.

—73 de Roy WA4DOU”

Reading Roy's jubilant message reminds your editor how excited he was in snagging JT1Y, a DXpedition, on SSB to catch Zone 23 and earn WAZ. Roy's note reflects the exhilaration that comes with the final accomplishment and spurs us on to the next award. Still looking for Zone 23 yourself? The All Asian CW DX contest is on June 16-17 as detailed on “THE BACK PAGE” —The Editor.

Ham Radio Software

Paul Ponak, AD4IE, wrote me that he's found a very inexpensive piece of contesting software at:

<http://www.n3fjp.com>

Paul states, “I've been using this guy's contest programs for a while now. QST recently have him an excellent write-up. For a requested \$5 donation (if you use and like the program) this is a hard deal to beat.” My quick check indicated it is Windows-based and seems to handle the major contests. Check it out.

—The Editor

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to “The Amateur's Code” as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
1929 Ewing Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: w4nzc@att.net.

New Webmaster Steps Up

If you have not visited the CDXA website lately, you are in for a surprise. Lloyd Burt agreed to step in to fill the role of Webmaster, and he has already updated many parts of the site which needed some attention. In case you did not guess, Lloyd is the guy who raised his father Roger Burt, N4ZC, or is it the other way around?

The website is accessible with the following URL:

<http://www.cdxa.org>

The current issue of the Pileup is still prominently displayed and available from the website. Recent past issues are available from the same page. Older issues are available from the archives which will continue to be maintained on the site.

The Gallery section of the website has been resurrected from some missing link to the former pages. Its reappearance does highlight the need for some updated pictures of shacks and their operators. If you have a digitized image of your shack or antenna farm, please send it to either me or Lloyd for inclusion on our site.

Roger, N4ZC, has asked Lloyd to provide some needed updates to the copy on the W4 Bureau pages. So if you've not visited those pages recently, you will find some new text there.

Work remains to be done on the web roster to update recent additions and changes to data as well as to find an easier way to import roster data from the membership database being maintained by our Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Cannaday. (Please note that all changes to member related data should always be done through Ken.) If you wish to contact Lloyd about something on the website, his email address is available through a number of hotlinks on the site for the “webmaster”.

Please join me in thanking Lloyd for taking on this job and for his efforts in making needed updates. Thanks also to Jerry Moore, AE4PB, for all the work he did early last year in getting the Pileup easily accessible using files in PDF format. —The Editor



Punthagorean Theorem

Next time you need to figure out an impedance from a resistance and a reactance, this little pneumonic may help. There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deer skin, one slept on an elk skin, and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant and the first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys. This goes to prove that the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides.

The sign of a good pun is the duration of the groan. Before you groan too loudly, however, you must remember that people who provide you with the best puns should be drawn and quoted. —*Author Unknown!!*

New Members In Our Midst

The events leading up to, including and following the Charlotte Hamfest resulted in a number of new members joining our ranks. Your friendly editor believes he has correctly captured all the new members below, but if I've left anyone's name off the list, let me know, and you will get top billing in the July newsletter. Names are provided in alphabetic order:

W4QT	Harold Bouton	Charlotte, NC
WB4OOA	Ron Durie	Waxhaw, NC
KF4TP	Olaf Madsen	Shelby, NC
N2UX	Christopher McNabb	Christiansburg, VA
W4OH	Daryl Sampson	Charlotte, NC
W4MEL	Mel Seyle	North Charleston, SC
N4AA	Carl Smith	Leicester, NC
K0COP	David Walker	Pawleys Island, SC
KU4VF	Frederick Young	Charlotte, NC

CDXA's Top Dog DXers

With the arrival of the **DXCC Yearbook 2000**, your editor undertook the unenviable task of searching through the record to see how CDXA's top DXers fared in the annual reconciliation of pursuit for DXCC entities. Below are the results of those within about 20 entities of having all current 334 authorized entities. Apologies are offered if I have missed anyone. Let me know your numbers by September for a Fall recap.

Callsign	Name	Total Confirmed
N4SU	David Kennedy	383
W4ZV	Bill Tippet	372
K4BVQ	Frank Dowd	370
N4XO	David A. Rawley	370
K4MQG	Gary Dixon	367
N4UH	Henry Elwell	361
K4DJ	Richard Moser	360
K4HJE	E.V. Hicks	360
N4MM	John Kanode	360
K4CEB	Larry Sossoman	358
AA4S	Ron Bailey	354
N4ZC	Roger Burt	354
AA4V	Steve Reichlyn	349
N4AH	Orville Brandon	349
KZ2I	Steve Sullivan	348
AA4R	Bill Parris	347
N4AA	Carl Smith	347
W4CZU	Bud Brown	345
W4MBD	Bob McNeill II	344
W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	343
N4JJ	Jack Jackson	342
W4WMQ	Murphy Ratterree	342
K4ZO	Bruce Gragg	341
W4UNP	Bill Jennings	341
W4UW	Richard Genaille	341
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	340
WA8WV	Dave Ellis	340
AK4N	Grady Robinson	339
W4MPY	Wayne Carroll	339
WA4AFE	Royce Goodwin	335
K4SI	Bob Cranford	334
WA4OBO	Ken Winston	333
WA4PLR	Pete Eldridge	333
K4QVK	Arlin Wilson	330
K4ZA	Don Daso	328
K4MK	Kent Miller	315
N4PQX	Bob Burton	315

Contact CDXA Members in VHF Contest

A team of CDXA members will be operating in the ARRL June VHF contest June 9 and 10. The team consists of Ron Bailey (AA4S), Paul Trotter (AA4ZZ), Scott Douglass (K2SD), Ken Boyd (K4DXA), Gary Dixon (K4MQG), Bill Fisher (W4GRW), Roger Webb (W4MW) and Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF). They will operate from atop a 5000 foot mountain outside Boone, North Carolina.

Many of the contest contacts will be on SSB or CW, and all CDXA members are encouraged to work the contest station. Those CDXA members with only 2 meter or 70cm FM radios can also help the team with contacts. From their mountaintop site, the team will be using the call AA4ZZ and should be able to work fixed and mobile stations in most of the western and Piedmont areas of North and South Carolina on 2 meter FM. The contest runs from 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 9 until 11:00 PM on Sunday, June 10. Two meter FM simplex frequencies used during the contest are 146.49, 146.55, and 146.58. The team will be looking for CDXA members especially at 3 PM on both days on 146.49 FM simplex. If you have 50 Mhz. or 222 Mhz. capabilities the team would like to work you there as well.

The team has done quite well in VHF contests in recent showings considering the operating venue here in the Carolinas does not have the population density within line-of-sight communications as do those operating in the Northeast or in the Sierra Nevada mountains along the California coast. If you'd like to know a little more about the technology of a VHF contest, read the article by Paul Trotter, below.

Interesting VHF Contest Facts

By Paul Trotter AA4ZZ

1. The Importance of Portable and Mobile Stations. The Multioperator category is dominated by mountain top portable stations that set up semi-field day style on mountain tops to create a very tall antenna tower. The top stations erect large stacks of yagis for just one weekend. In addition there is Rover category which consists of mobile stations that move from site to site during the contest. It is amazing how some of the stations mount radios and small yagi antennae for 4 or more bands on their car or van
2. The Use of HF Radios. At the AA4ZZ multiop station you will find a Yeasu FT-1000MP, a Kenwood TS-

930, and an Icom IC-751A. No, we are not working 20 meters, we are using them to drive transverters for the VHF bands. The typical multimode VHF radio will experience extreme front end overload if used on a mountain top that is line of sight from another mountain top contest station. The transverters from SSB Electronics and Downeast Microwave in conjunction with a good HF radio do much better with these very strong signal levels.

3. We work a long way on these bands. Most HF operators are surprised to find out the distances that we regularly work in a contest. For example, on 432 Mhz from the AA4ZZ site near Boone, NC to the Northeast we regularly work into Pennsylvania. We often work Connecticut, and one year we worked all the way to Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

4. The VHF bands are unpredictable. Even to a 25 year veteran of VHF contesting like myself, propagation always provides surprising contacts. For example the sudden appearance of station in central Florida on an otherwise dead 222 Mhz band in the middle of the afternoon; a typically slow time, is never unexpected.

5. The importance of each contact. With a leading multiop station working perhaps 800 contacts in the weekend, each individual contact is much more valuable than in a typical HF contest. Therefore, it is very important to work each station on as many bands as possible. It is also very important to work many stations who are not actively participating in the contest and who, in fact, may not even know it is going on.

6. If you move, you can work everyone over again. The multiplier is longitude/latitude blocks called grid squares. If a mobile station crosses into another square it can rework all the stations it has contacted for a new point. For example Charlotte is in EM95 but if you drive south of Weddington or Fort Mill you enter EM94. A number of CXDA members make this trip in the VHF contests (thanks guys!). If you want to know your grid square, go to www.amsat.org/cgi-bin/gridconv or just ask someone active on the VHF bands.

Paul and the gang would really appreciate the help of a few rovers in the upcoming contest now that you know the value of each contact. Give Paul a call if you'd like to get started in VHF contesting at this level.

—The Editor

Big World Gets Smaller

By John Scott, K8YC

Ham radio has a way of making this great big world of ours seem not so big. Several weeks ago while updating the mail list for the Pileup, I noticed the familiar call-sign of N4AA, Carl Smith, as one who recently joined (or should I say rejoined) the ranks of CDXA. For those that don't know Carl, he publishes a weekly DX newsletter called QRZ DX. In an email exchange with Carl welcoming him to CDXA, he sent me a complimentary issue of the newsletter for April 9 in PDF format. On the front page of that issue was a picture of Michael Dimitrakakis of Crete.

A few days later I decided to check out DX "new ones" for which I had not yet received a QSL card. When I found a contact with Crete had not yet been confirmed, I went to QRZ.com to get an address for a resend. QRZ had a website and email address listed for my contact. I went to the website out of curiosity and found my QSO was the one and the same operator, SV9CVY, as identified by the very same picture I had seen in QRZ DX! I surfed the website and enjoyed seeing Michael's antenna construction project. (More on that in a minute.) I then wrote SV9CVY with the details of our QSO asking him if I was in the log. I got a quick reply stating I was. In one of several friendly email exchanges that ensued, Michael provided me with some great photos of his antenna project. (How can anyone resist talking about their pride and joy, especially after I complemented him on his nice web site.) So, it is clear that the threads we weave come together in unusual ways.

Below is the "hole" for Micheal's 90 foot standalone antenna.



The hole is 12 feet by 12 feet by 14 feet deep and took about 48 cubic yards of concrete to fill. That's about 50 tons of concrete for those not so fast with the numbers.

Below is a picture of the partially poured base:



As you can see, the "face" of the tower is pretty big. Michael states on his website that the tower was intended as a cellular tower weighing 4.8 tons and that he was able to acquire it from a friend. It is 90 feet tall as shown in the picture below showing it next to his house:



There are some other great pictures on Michael's website about constructing both the tower and antennas. As an added bonus, there are some beautiful pictures of Crete that will make you yearn for making Crete your next DXpedition venue. If you'd like to see more, go to:

<http://www.rethymno.com/sv9cvy>

The Back Page

CDXA **Barbeque** is scheduled for October 20 as announced in the Presidential Ponderings last month. Put this date on your calendars. It is a nice, casual outdoor event which the XYLs and/or “significant others” can enjoy.

Contest Summary. The next issue is not due out until July, 2001. Therefore, the contest summary of selected events is for May and June.

Date	Event
May 5-6	Ten-Ten International Net Spring QSO Party (May QST, Page 106)
May 26-27	CQ Worldwide WPX CW Contest (March QST, Page 114)
May 26-28	Memorial Day CW Sprint for QRPers! (May QST, Page 106)
June 9-11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party (May QST, Page 114 for rules)
June 16-17	All Asian CW DX Contest
June 23-24	ARRL Field Day (May QST, Page 112 for rules)
June 23-24	Marconi Memorial HF Contest
July 14-15	IARU HF World Championship (April QST, Page 111 for rules)

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.